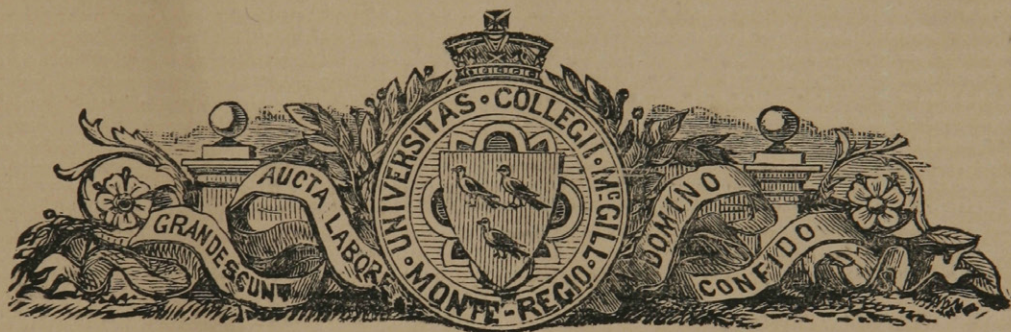


McGILL
UNIVERSITY GAZETTE

Tuesday, January 15th, 1884.



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UNIVERSITY GAZETTE

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MCGILL COLLEGE, MONTREAL, JANUARY 15TH, 1884.

[No. 5.]

MCGILL UNIVERSITY GAZETTE.

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Rejected Communications will not be returned, to which rule no exception can be made. The name of the writer must always accompany a communication.

TO THE NEW YEAR.

In "New Dominion Monthly."

Hark! is't thy step, New Year?
With sure but stealthy pace thou aye dost come;
And in thy train are gladdening gifts for some;
O haste thee, glad New Year!

Too swift thy step, New Year!
The past had gathered friends from many lands,
And thou dost come to part their clasped hands:
Alas, so near, New Year!

"O haste!" "Delay!" New Year;—
Two prayers together rising up to Heaven:
Trust in the answer; is it not God given?
Meet bravely the New Year!

Welcome the new, New Year!
O clear-voiced Truth, lead in the coming morn;
And gentle Charity, our lives adorn:
Hope lives in the New Year!

GOWAN LEA.

Editorials.

FOR a considerable length of time there has been felt amongst the Graduates and Undergraduates of this University, the want of a club similar to those which exist in connection with several of the English and American universities. Proposals for the formation of such a club have been frequently discussed by our Graduates, especially by those resident in this city, and an attempt, we believe, was at one time made to give a practical shape to the scheme. The attempt, we are sorry to say, failed, and for some time the matter was allowed to rest. Of late, however, a feeling has been gaining strength, more particularly among some of the younger graduates, that measures ought to be taken to carry out what is the so evident desire of a large majority of the alumni of the University. The matter has been freely discussed and quite a large number have already expressed their willingness to aid in carrying out the project. Something in this direction was, indeed, attempted last winter when the Graduates' Society held several reunions in Joyce's rooms. These social gatherings were highly appreciated and it was resolved to continue them during the present winter, but we believe it has been found impossible to carry out this intention because of the difficulty of obtaining suitable rooms. These meetings, although they took place only at considerable intervals, served to show the desirability of forming such a club as we have mentioned. Being, then, convinced that what is alone wanted to set the project on foot, is that some one should take the initiative, we have determined to take up the matter and do our best to establish on a firm basis a McGill University

Club. To dilate upon the advantages to be gained by the establishment of such an institution as this seems to us unnecessary. The only question appears to be how the scheme can best be carried out. And here we may say, that we shall be glad to receive suggestions from any of our readers who may take an interest in the matter, and to hear from those who approve of our course. One thing we feel it necessary at the outset to point out, and it is this, that we must begin on a small scale and work gradually upwards. It is very important to remember this because, although some may wish to make a start on a larger scale, yet the fact remains that the number of our Graduates in this city is not very large, nor are their resources, as a rule, very great. Experience, too, shows the wisdom of this course. At Yale, for instance, the club which is now so well known, and which has a very extensive membership, took its rise from an association formed amongst the members of one of the classes in the University. Our friends in Toronto it is true have lately endeavoured to organize a club on a somewhat larger scale, but we have not yet heard whether the attempt has met with success or no. In any case, our position is not exactly similar, and we shall have to proceed somewhat less ambitiously. To make a beginning we require very little. Rooms will have to be taken in a convenient part of the city, somewhere, say, about Beaver Hall Hill, or in the vicinity of Philips Square, and these should be furnished for reading and other purposes. There would thus be afforded a rendezvous for University men, and a suitable place of meeting for the Graduates' Society and like associations. It will be especially convenient for Graduates living in the country, who may happen to be in town, and wish to meet college friends, and for strangers from sister Universities, who will find here a friendly reception amongst congenial spirits. After a time we shall, no doubt, be able to improve and enlarge the Club so that Graduates engaged in professions or business in the city, will be able to obtain their meals with convenience and at reasonable rates. The Undergraduates should also be allowed to participate in the advantages of the Club, and should be represented on the committee of management. As the college session is now pretty well advanced, we cannot hope to see the scheme fully carried out this winter, but such preliminary steps can be taken as will insure the establishment of the Club early next Fall. We propose to issue, in a short time, circulars calling a meeting of Graduates to discuss the whole project, and, if they see fit, to appoint a provisional committee to take the matter in hand. We hope that all will give their hearty support, and thus carry the enterprise to a successful issue.

AMONG the many imperfections of which the Arts student is at various times conscious as existent in his course, the one which to many presents itself with most force and frequency, is the need of sufficient instruction in Rhetoric. No depreciation of the present lectures is to be understood by this remark; for all that can be done, and much more than could be expected is accomplished in a course of one lecture a week during a single session. But a compendium of rules and a collection of practical

hints, even although the rules are stated with a simplicity and clearness seldom found in textbooks, and although the hints are given in a pleasing and forcible manner, are not nearly adequate for those who earnestly desire to become writers or speakers. Something more practical is needed. All that is now given can be acquired, not so easily or pleasantly perhaps, but still acquired from the ordinary textbooks on the subject. What cannot be so gained is fair, painstaking criticism of both written and spoken compositions, and instruction in the management of the voice and the art of gesticulation. These things are of supreme importance to a large number of the students, and many, failing by their own efforts to gain the necessary cultivation, despair of ever doing so, and are tempted to believe that "the orator is born, not made." Something then ought to be done to enlarge the usefulness of the present course, and we trust the authorities will soon see their way to help the students to those advantages of which a great man has spoken in the following words: "Statement, thought, arrangement, however men may struggle against them, have an influence upon them, and public men, however they may dislike it, are forced to admit that, conditions being equal, the man who can state anything best, who can pursue an argument most closely, who can give the richest and most felicitous illustrations, and who can command some kind of beauty of diction, will have the advantage over his contemporaries." Another quotation and we will have done: "Attractiveness of style is part of the instrumentality by which a writer or speaker accomplishes his ends. If a man would convince, he must not disdain the arts by which people can be induced to listen."

WE are sorry that it has been thought fit not to organize the Glee Club this year. It is true that last year there was a small financial deficit, but with a little careful management we imagine that this could have been made up and the club successfully carried on. A meeting was called before Christmas to consider the matter at which, we are told, only a few students were present. The reason of this, we think, was the way in which the meeting was called. Notices were posted up in the Arts and Medical buildings, but to our knowledge it was unknown to a great number that any such meeting was to take place. The decision not to continue the club was arrived at, we believe, on the suggestion of the late Secretary who was called upon by the meeting to give his opinion. Our opinion differs from that of the late Secretary. Had it been the Treasurer, who had to make good last year's deficit out of his own pocket, that advised this course, we should not have been surprised. But such a lover of music as the Secretary ought to have been prepared to work with a will to endeavour to keep alive this excellent institution. Perhaps next year some one will be found with sufficient enthusiasm to take the matter in hand, and perhaps we may be even fortunate enough to be able to give some concerts if the club is formed early enough in the autumn. In the meantime we are to have a new song-book. Let us be glad for even this small blessing, and let us wish the committee appointed for this purpose every success in their efforts.

It is pleasing to be able to chronicle the formation of a society which will encourage the study of the Celtic languages and literature. Like the comparatively recent researches into Anglo-Saxon lore, this revival of interest in the Celtic remains

of Britain, will undoubtedly be productive of valuable philological and literary results. Mr. John MacLennan, the honorary president, is well-known as a gentleman of great ability, while the president, Rev. Dr. MacNish, has taken much interest in the various Celtic languages, and is certainly the best educated Celt in this country. A gold medallist in classics of Toronto University, in the good old days of Dr. McCaul, when taking a medal "meant something," Dr. MacNish has never ceased to prosecute his studies in Greek and Latin, and in spite of a pardonable predilection for classical literature, still testifies to the vigor and worth of ancient Celtic literature. Various lectures on Ossian and kindred subjects, delivered by him before the Canadian Literary Institute, have been published, and it may be that some day a book on these questions may swell the volume of our native literature. The Celtic Society, though formed in connection with the Presbyterian College, is meant to include all of Celtic descent who wish to join.

Contributions.

THE STUDY OF HISTORY.

Of all the departments of literature, the subject of history is in some respects the most interesting; for it has attractions peculiarly its own. It may be said to contain the essence of all others; for each in some degree enters into its composition. The philosopher will there find abundant materials for his study, for the philosophy of history is a life-study in itself, whether it be reducible to a science or not. He will there find the facts upon which his conclusions are grounded, and by which his speculations may be tested. He will find what his predecessors have done on the same ground, and the results of their labours. He will learn something of the moral government of the Universe, and of the principles which have guided the conduct of men. The scientific man must look to history for a record of the changes which the world of nature has undergone, and of its bypast phenomena. The geologist will there find valuable aid in his suppositions regarding the origin and growth of rocks and fossils, and the crust of the earth. The antiquarian finds it throwing great light on the fragments and relics which constitute his study, and leading him to reliable information regarding these, which their appearance and nature would not of themselves afford. The poet and romancist will there find abundant materials for thought and the cultivation of their arts. The student of biography will find the lives of all kinds of men, the circumstances that led to the formation of their characters, and the influence they exerted on their contemporaries and on posterity. And the student of prophecy will find there the data upon which his surmises regarding the unseen future must be built. He will gather together, as it were, the tangled web of past ages, and looking at their issues, he will have some guide as to what is likely to spring from the events going on around him, and a clue to the movements and changes to which these in turn will give rise. History is thus common ground on which men of all tastes and pursuits can meet; and it presents fields of research which the most indefatigable laborers will almost never overtake, and sources of instruction and delight which can scarcely be exhausted.

It is almost appalling to think of what history is; to think of its boundlessness and the variety of the materials composing it. It would be impossible to write a complete history of the world for a single year, for no building would contain the books that would have to be written: a lifetime would not suffice to write it—a lifetime would not be long enough even to read it. It would be necessary to chronicle, not only the great occurrences which had taken place, but also the countless incidents which these had originated; and in pursuing their endless ramifications the mind would be confused and lost. In such a history nothing would be valueless, for the veriest trifle would throw light on something else; and that again would af-

fect another, onward and onward, until the greatest of all was reached. History may be said to include a narration of all facts in connection with a given subject—the subsidiary, as well as the most important ones; and it may also embrace comments, explanations, or parallels by the author; for if these were excluded, it would be annals only, and not history. Tradition, poetry, tales, biography, old letters and accounts, state papers and other such documents, are undoubtedly all parts of national history, although not precisely known by that name; for every one of them supplies valuable materials for its compilation.

True, indeed, many an historian in the past has not taken advantage of all such materials, but has fallen far short of our ideal of true history. There are histories of every variety between Herodotus' most interesting work, and Froude's delightful volumes. Some of these historians have gone to the one extreme of relating everything they knew, however improbable, and whether they believed it themselves or not; and others again have given us only a dry matter-of-fact recital of the great occurrences in the world's progress. Many have thought they have done all that could be required of them when they have narrated this battle, or that great national victory, how such a hero emerged from obscurity and astonished the world, or when such a king, nobleman or prelate was born and died; while nothing was said about the common people, and information as to the manner in which these classes lived and died will be sought for in vain. Some people may think it beneath the dignity of history to condescend to such particulars as these, yet there cannot be a perfect history without them. A writer who gives us only a dry description of the great events of the period, is like an artist who would paint a fine landscape, filling in the mountains, rivers, and dells, the houses, roads and trees, but without filling in the grass and the rustling foliage, the blossoms on the hedges, or the weeds by the water's edge. Such a picture would manifestly be a failure; and so is such a history.

This voluminousness of historic details brings with it one or two drawbacks. One of these is that it is impossible to overtake all history, and it is therefore needful to confine one's attention to a comparatively limited portion of it. No doubt a man might, in the course of years, make a rush through universal history, and read something about all nations, and during all their periods. But what the better would he be? He would have a confused notion of many things, and a thorough knowledge of nothing. It is true he must know something of the other parts of it, as well as his own special study; for it would be discreditable to him if he did not know whether Julius Cæsar was a Roman or a Greek, whether Socrates was a philosopher or a warrior; though he might well be excused if he did not know that the former had twice landed in Britain and conquered its inhabitants, and that the latter had a very ill-tempered wife. A student must know something of general history, but his strength should be given to some particular part of it, and his attention confined to it till he has mastered its minutest details. Each one should select an epoch or country best suited to his own taste, and make that his study and the focus of his reading, everything being greatly subordinated, and in connection with it. British history in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries may be quoted as an illustration, which is one of the most interesting periods, and for which abundant materials can easily be had. This begins in Scottish history about 50 years before the Reformation, and until the union of the Kingdoms, and in England during the reigns of Henry VIII. and his family, the Jameses, the Charleses, and William and Mary. The introduction of printing into Scotland, the battle of Flodden, Knox, and the Reformation, Henry VIII. and his many wives, the martyrdom of Ridley, Latimer and Cranmer, the Armada, the Gunpowder Plot, the Cavaliers and Roundheads, the execution of Charles I. and Oliver Cromwell's Protectorate, are some of the great subjects included in it. More, Latimer, and Fox; Shakespeare, Jonson, Beaumont and Fletcher; Spenser, Cowley and Milton; Hooker, Bacon and Baxter; Butler and Dryden; Tillotson and Bunyan; Clarendon and Burnet, are some of the great stars of our literature, whose lives and writings at once adorn and illustrate the period.

This abundance of historic materials is the cause of another disadvantage. As it is impossible for an historian to mention everything, a selection is necessary, and room is thereby opened up for partiality and unfairness. An historian's great object should be to give a clear idea of the period about which he writes; and as he cannot give all the details, he should present his readers with those that furnish a true idea of the whole. But this expectation is often sadly disappointed. Some have written under party bias, or with strong feelings in favour of certain personages; and some have written with the express purpose of creating certain opinions, and to accomplish a definite object. And this may be done to a very large extent without falsifying, or even exaggerating facts, by simply leaving out those that would interfere with the intended impressions, or explaining them away, and giving full prominence to those on the other side of the question. This makes it necessary to read as much as possible on the subject, so as to learn all the versions of the story, and the different opinions concerning it. The history of Queen Mary may be referred to as an illustration. Dr. Robertson wrote of her in a somewhat condemnatory strain, believing her guilty, and William Tytler wrote in refutation of his views. More recently Glassford Bell has written a history in her defence, but he is so partial that his work may be said to be more like an advocate's special pleading than anything else; and P. F. Tytler, in his *History of Scotland*, (the best we have,) after careful enquiry, takes an opposite view to that of his grandfather, and gives probably the most correct view of her character that can be had. Knox's history also is a very good one, and his account of her may be accepted as true, in spite of his dislike of her, and his intense hatred of her religion. Thus by reading all the different histories—one supplying what the other has omitted—weighing conflicting evidences, and considering opposite opinions, a true conception of the subject may be secured, and the most reliable information obtained.

"An historian, we conceive, should transport himself in spirit to the age and country about which he writes. His whole being should be as much suffused and influenced by them as if he lived amongst them, having actually seen the deeds he relates, and heard the tales he recounts. He should stand on the battle-field, and give us not merely an outline, but a photograph of the scene, telling us not only where the commander stood and directed its movements, where the fighting was fiercest, and the carnage greatest, but also how the soldiers were clothed and armed, what kind of armour they wore, with what weapons they fought. All these should be told; for they contribute not less to the interest of the picture than do the quarrels and sulterfuges, the mistakes and crimes which provoked the contest. But this vivid imagination should be tempered by a clear judgment and sound discretion. While desiring a striking and attractive picture, he ought never to create incidents for the sake of embellishing his story. He should possess the faculty of rightly analyzing character, giving his readers an insight into the feelings and dispositions of those about whom he writes, and showing how they thought in private, as well as how they acted in public. Then we would have histories truly worthy of the name, and combining the good qualities of all with the accuracy of Tytler, the impartiality of Hallam, and the eloquent brilliancy of Macaulay."

As already hinted, many of our historians confine themselves to the great movements in the world's progress, and tell us little or nothing of the more personal and domestic life of the times about which they write. But these are to be found elsewhere; and it is well worth while going a little out of our way in search of them. Let us suppose that some information is desired regarding English life and manners about five hundred years ago, and although we may obtain some details in histories, we will get them far more fully and vividly from Chaucer in the Introduction to his *Canterbury Tales*. The plan of the work is, that a company of people from all ranks are assembled at the Tabard Inn, in Southwark, before proceeding on a pilgrimage to the shrine of Thomas à Becket, at Canterbury. It is suggested that each in turn should tell a story, to beguile the long journey over the rough roads; and before relating these, Chaucer, in his prologue, describes the narrators themselves. Thus, the country

parson and the doctor are described, the monks as we know, were not all ascetics, for some of them were as jolly fellows as Friar Tuck, and in the account of the yeoman we have a glimpse of the good old days of Merry England.

Again, if we require some such particulars about the Elizabethan age, it is not so much in histories as in the writings of Shakespeare that we will find them. If we want some information about the country Justices of these days, there are Justice Shallow, and his constables Verges and Dogberry. The Boar Tavern in Eastcheap, and the hostel of Mrs. Quickly, invite us to learn something of the tavern life of our ancestors. Mr. Ford and Mr. Page will show us middle-class society; and in the company of Goodfellow and Peaseblossom, Snug the joiner, or Snout the tinker, we learn a great deal about the amusements and follies of the common people. Take some of the characters in Henry IV. as an illustration. The King sends an officer to demand the liberation of some prisoners, and he is described as follows:—

“ Came there a certain lord, neat, trimly dressed,
Fresh as a bridegroom; and his chin new reaped,
Showed like a stubble land at harvest home;
He was perfumed like a milliner.”

Prince Henry is a well-drawn figure. He was what in modern phraseology would be called a “fast young man.” He gave himself entirely up to the follies of the hour, and spent his days in pleasure and amusements among a set of men of congenial tastes whom he had gathered around him. Tired of the constraints and ceremonies of court life, he spent his evenings in the taverns and theatres; and although not actually liking low company for its own sake, he yet took part in it, believing that he could see life better there than anywhere else. But his father's death, and his accession to the throne, seemed to have called forth his better nature, and like one who had been roused from a dream, he stirred up his dormant faculties, and became a new man. As he himself says:—

“ Presume not that I am the thing I was;
For Heaven doth know, so shall the world perceive,
That I have turned away my former self;
So will I those that kept me company.”

Here, too, there is Falstaff, perhaps the best known character in Shakespeare's writings. He was a regular man of fashion, without any principles of honour, and, indeed, a hoary old sinner. Shakespeare has displayed considerable ingenuity in describing him, for he had to make him both attractive and repulsive,—attractive to account for Prince Henry's partiality for him, and repulsive in the interests of virtue. He was rendered the former by his humour, which he possessed in a more than ordinary degree, and which he turned to account on every possible occasion, thereby getting himself out of many a scrape by his humorous excuses. He was what the Yankees would call “cute,” always looking sharply after himself, and far too wide awake to be imposed upon. He excites our laughter by his cowardice, even when he is telling the most improbable stories of his own hardihood and bravery.

Such details and hints of life and manners as these cannot be obtained from history; and it is well that we can thus get them from other sources. We like to stand behind the scenes, and see the King and his courtiers, not only in their crowns and coronets, and engaged in state ceremonials, but as they were in their private lives, in their amusements, loves and hatreds, and it may be in their follies and sins. We desire to accompany the housewife to the markets and booths, as she purchases provisions for her family, and, true to her instinct, tries to cheapen her bargains. We wish to see the handicraftsman at his labours, and see how he did what is now being done by machinery. We want to stand at the corner of the streets, in the market-places, in the play-houses and taverns, where every part of social life is opened up to view, and where everything and everybody can pass before us like the figures in a panorama. All this is true history; and in reading old poetry, plays or novels, we are not only wandering among the flowers of literature, but gathering solid information, and studying history in the best possible manner.

It is especially interesting to read the past history of England, from the striking contrast it presents to its present condition. We have indeed wars, and rumours of war flying about, yet these affect us but slightly. There was the Crimean War, now nearly thirty years ago; still later the Abyssinian expedition, and recently the exploits in Egypt; and the difference these made to us was a little excitement and anxiety to hear the latest news from headquarters. But how different from the days of our forefathers, when the country was rent asunder by civil war, the people fighting with the Government, and faction against faction, the plains and hill-sides dyed with blood, and their fellow-men lying unburied around them! These men had literally to defend their families and property; everyone looked askance at his neighbour, the burgesses had to mount guard over their cities; and the watchword was demanded at every gate. We can never read of the long and weary struggles which our ancestors made for civil and religious liberty, without deep interest and gratitude for the rich inheritance they have won for us. Especially are we grateful for the toleration and religious freedom now enjoyed by all; and when we read of the sacrifices made by the Covenanters in Scotland, and the Puritans and Nonconformists in England, we feel there is a close bond of connection betwixt them and us, since we are every day reaping the fruits of their labours. It is difficult to realize the true state of these troublous times. Traditions and stories have floated down to us on the stream of time, now elevating such a man into a hero of romance, and describing another of the worst possible character. And yet when we dive deep into the recesses of history, we often find how erroneous such impressions are, and how much some men have been misjudged, and their motives and lives misunderstood. Oliver Cromwell is a case in point. He has often been described as a stern and inflexible despot, a gloomy fanatic, or a canting hypocrite. That he was the greatest of men, the most unsullied of patriots, or the best of Christians, we cannot aver; and yet the latter description of him is far nearer the truth than the former. He was a man who set duty constantly before him, and ever acted up to the light he possessed; and although he had many faults, these we think were overshadowed by his virtues. We can form no true or adequate conception of him by merely reading his biography; we must also know a great deal of contemporary history. It is not enough to know that he usurped the government, but we must find out why he did it, and the results which followed. He must be judged, not by the light of the present day, but by the views of his own time, and by the circumstances with which he was surrounded. Most of his biographers present to us quite a different man, therefore we must judge for ourselves, and gather the materials from the whole range of historic details.

And now, may I not say in closing, that the attentive reader of history will find a higher hand than man's guiding it all, and disposing it for his own high purposes? Not that he will be able to see the reason of everything, or trace the divine hand work in every event; for many things will often appear inscrutable to his limited knowledge, and about which he must be content to remain ignorant. As a man could not be expected to understand the contents of a book by only reading a few pages in the middle of it, so he cannot understand the plans of God, from the little he knows of the past, or the little he sees going on around him. He feels that history is not the record of a confused mass of irregular events, carelessly thrown together, without purpose or utility; that it is not the working out of a cold and inflexible destiny, which has no regard to individual welfare, but which moulds all things according to its own purpose. But he feels that it is Supreme Intelligence carrying out a grand and comprehensive purpose, beneficent in its design, and glorious in its working; that it is the development of certain moral principles, and that the whole is presided over by one whose power is inexhaustible in its resources, unfettered in its exercise, and unlimited in its range.

CONUNDRUM.—Why is McGill this year like a cattle show?
Because there are so many fat calves on view.

Correspondence.

OUR IRISH LETTER.

DUBLIN, December, 1883.

The year just closing has not seen many changes in educational matters in Ireland. The public schools are in much the same state as they were this time last year—struggling hard to keep themselves alive. During the last few years those Irish public schools which do not happen to be blessed with large endowments, have suffered much from the state of general depression in the country. Kingstown School for example, which was established nearly a century since, and which had for many years been recognized as the first school in this country, in the year 1875, had on its roll 80 boarders and 120 day boys whereas now it has only 20 boarders and about the same number of day boys. English schools receive a large number of Irish boys, while many read with private tutors, or at grinding establishments. It is difficult to say exactly what the reasons are for so many parents sending their children to England, but many assert that they receive a certain polish and a nice English accent, and that this takes the fancy of their fond parents. Certainly the solid educational advantages to be derived are not greater on the other side of the channel.

At last a new Lord High-Chancellor for Ireland has been appointed. The distinguished post has been conferred on Sir Edward Sullivan. He obtained the appointment because of his adherence to Mr. Gladstone, and his really great legal talent. Mr. Porter has been appointed to succeed him as Master of the Rolls, which has given general satisfaction.

Plans for a new theatre for Dublin have just been published. Since the burning of the Theatre Royal some years ago, we have not had any first-class theatre, in fact we have had none fit to bring the Queen's representative to.

Mr. Oscar Wilde delivered two lectures lately in Dublin, but, sad to relate, his audiences were very small, and those who did honour him with their presence paid no attention to his lecture. Nevertheless before he quitted his native city he succeeded in finding his better half, a charming young lady with a charming fortune.

Football is now at its zenith in Ireland. It commences in October and continues generally until late in March. The International Match, England *vs.* Ireland, will be played in February. So far Ireland has never beaten England at football, but let us hope that that day is not far off, and that February, 1884, will see our efforts crowned with success.

YOUR CORRESPONDENT.

College World.

GENERAL.

A SHORT-HAND class has been organized at Yale.

A MOOT COURT has been organized at Dalhousie.

THIRTY-FIVE per cent. of the students of Dartmouth are said to be sceptics.

Two of the students of the Harvard Annex are to be married to professors.

H.R.H. PRINCE SWASH SOBHOW, brother of the King of Siam, is studying at Oxford.

IN the United States there is on an average a university to every hundred miles of territory.

SOME Illinois college students are wearing knee breeches and silk hose.—[So are some McGill students.]

THERE are five papers published at Johns Hopkins University, all devoted to original scientific investigations.

THERE are 186 students taking classes in the different departments of Dalhousie University.

THE various Colleges conducted by the Jesuit Fathers in the United States have 331 professors, and 4,844 students.—*Ex.*

WE are always glad to receive the *King's College Record*. The November number contains an interesting article on Robert Bloomfield.

THE *Knox College Monthly* shows an improvement in its second number. The articles on general subjects are good, and the editors on the whole deserve praise for their efforts.

THE *Hartford Courant* says the sickness at Yale College this fall has been no more than usual, and traces the newspaper scare to an exaggerated "special" to the *New York Sun*.

THE admission of females into Delaware College does not, according to the *Review*, seem to have been beneficial to that institution.—*Queen's College Journal*.

THE Skinners' Company have offered a scholarship of the value of \$250 a year for three years, to be held at Girton College, Cambridge.

THE *St. Mary's Sentinel* of the 15th December, contains a rather silly poem entitled "Two Maidens." The *Sentinel* has a habit of copying into its exchange columns what other papers say about it, which is not very good form, to say the least of it.

THE November number of the *Richmond Literary Miscellany* contained some pretty verses entitled, "Song of the Lighthouse Girl." A good deal of space is devoted to clippings and selections.

HARVARD graduates in Washington are to form a club similar to those in Boston and New York. Hon. George Bancroft will be the first president, and a series of dinners will be given during the winter.

THE *Pot Pourri* (Yale University) for 1883-84 is excellently got up. The cuts are very amusing, while the printing and whole mechanical work is tastily executed. Pictures of the superb buildings of the University grace the front pages.

PRINCE NAPOLEON's eldest son has been for some time a pupil at Cheltenham College, in England. His studies have, however, been suddenly cut short, as he has just been summoned back to France in consequence of his having been drawn in the conscription.—*St. Mary's Sentinel*.

PROFESSOR W. GARNETT, Mathematical Professor at the Nottingham University College, and organizer of the technical school which has just been successfully started in that institution, has been nominated by the Dean of Durham as Professor of Mathematics and Principal of the College in that city, at an income of about £800 a year. Professor Garnett follows Mr. Aldis, who has resigned.

A FEW days since Dr. Anderson, demonstrator of anatomy in Queen's College, Belfast, was appointed to the Chair of Natural History in Queen's College, Galway. The vacant lectureship has been conferred on Dr. Thomas Sinclair, of Belfast. Dr. Sinclair's academic career was one of exceptional brilliance, and terminated with the highest University honours. His present appointment will no doubt prove highly satisfactory.

THE question of allowing students the option of substituting modern languages for Greek is approaching a decision at Harvard. The battle appears to be between the faculty and overseers, and in the anti-Greek party are President Eliot, Rev. Dr. James Freeman Clarke, Superintendent Seaver of the Boston public schools, and of course Charles Francis Adams, Jr. Prof. Agassiz favors the reform party.

A DENTAL institute is to be added to the Berlin University, and plans for its organization have been submitted to the medical faculty. The consideration in which American dentists who have established themselves in European cities are held, and the prices which they are able to charge, furnish sufficient proof that such an institution is needed in other countries besides Germany.

THE *Morrin College Review* has entered upon the second year of its existence. The first number exhibits an improvement in the general appearance of the paper, which was much needed. The articles, however, are nearly all marred by an evident effort after wit. We think it would be better for the *Review* to condense the fun into a separate column, and preserve a

serious tone in the rest of the paper. We are glad to see that the number of students attending the College is increasing.

THE Students' Guild of Cornell University was organized about seven years ago, to assist students who might be taken sick while pursuing their studies. The membership consisted of three members of the faculty, and one student from each of the four classes. The guild as first organized was allowed to lapse in consequence of Mrs. Fiske's bequest for the erection and maintenance of a hospital, but since this bequest is rendered inoperative by litigation, it has been thought best to reorganize the project.

A FRESHMAN named Moulton was hazed at Bowdoin lately, his room being entered and his property disturbed and injured. Under the new jury system of college discipline, a hearing of the matter took place a few evenings after. The case will require the attention of the full board for such cases, and will be the first in which the jury chosen by the students from the various secret societies will have a part. The best results are expected. The sentiment of the college is in decided support of the jury system.

PROFESSOR SYLVESTER has been elected to the Savilian Professorship of Geometry at Oxford, in succession to the lamented Henry Smith. The contrast between this and the last appointment to the Chair is remarkable; for while Henry Smith was a young man much below the usual professorial age, and was not known beyond a small circle of experts, Professor Sylvester is already a long way past middle life, and has long been known in both hemispheres as one of the most profound mathematicians of the age.

THE Harvard University Catalogue for 1883-84 makes a volume of 278 pages. The government teachers and other officers of the university number 231 persons, of whom 167 are teachers. The senior class numbers 209, the juniors 195, the sophomores 248, the freshmen 253, and the special students 67, a total of 972 students. There are 21 students in the divinity school, 146 law students, 26 scientific, 243 medical, 30 dental, and 88 others, making a total of 1,522 students in all the departments.

The November number of the *Portfolio* contains a "woman's rights" tirade by Adonis. The writer thinks that Venus must soon take her seat in the legislative assemblies of the world. When this happy time arrives (happy for Adonis if he happens to be a legislator then), it will be only fair that our regiments and police be recruited from amongst the gentler sex. They will probably like to have some share in carrying out their own laws. A far different spirit is breathed in the pretty little poem "Dear Mother" in the same number.

THE late Professor Sophocles was once approached by a visitor of the Shapira genus, who had some manuscripts alleged to be autographs of some of the early Fathers of the Church. The venerable Greek exposed the pretensions of several without losing his composure; but when at last the original manuscript of the Athanasian Creed, in the writing of St. Athanasius (?), was produced, he called his visitor's attention to a large club in the corner of the room, and pointed significantly toward the door, by which the terrified man made his escape with some precipitation.

THE report of the Board of Mediæval and Modern Languages recommending the establishment of a Modern Languages Tripos and containing the regulations for the same was discussed. The report met with general approval, Professor Seeley expressing a hope that no further delay would occur in bringing it up for adoption by the Senate, as he knew cases of men anxious to read for the Tripos. Mr. Tilley, Mr. Oscar Browning, and Mr. H. W. Eve expressed their pleasure at the prospect of an early establishment of the examination. The meeting then separated. —*Camb. Review*.

THE proposition of Washington C. De Pauw, of New Albany, to give \$240,000 to Asbury University at Greencastle, Ind., in return for \$180,000 additional endowment and the change of name to De Pauw University, has at last been

accepted, and the millionaire manufacturer's name will now supersede that of the early Methodist divine and bishop. Mr. De Pauw has also, with the consent of his wife and children, signed an agreement to give the institution forty-five per cent. of the remainder of his estate at his death. It is estimated that the endowment will aggregate about a million and a half of dollars.

THE *Dalhousie Gazette*, of November 23rd, contains a good article on Elective Studies. The writer thinks that the standard of matriculation should be raised, and that the student, after the first year, should be let choose his own studies. This is pretty much the opinion which we ourselves entertain with regard to a university course. The difficulty, however, is to get the universities to make their matriculation examinations sufficiently difficult to allow of the plan of special courses being properly carried out. The law school has been already presented with 2,785 volumes, and subscriptions to the amount of \$1,100. We wish Dalhousie every success in its new departure.

THE *Sunbeam*, in its November number, discusses the question of the study of medicine by women. It claims that every advancement gained by women is opposed by a certain class of men, merely on the ground of their losing just so much as women gain, and that their opposition is selfish and mercenary. Though women by nature are tender and careful nurses, and would make equally good doctors, yet the *Sunbeam* thinks that they will never, to any great extent, compete with men, but they should have every encouragement to qualify themselves for greater usefulness at home, and as missionaries. The same number contains a history of the *Sunbeam* from the time it left the sun until it struck mother earth, on November 1883, A.D. A contribution on the subject of "Betraying Confidence" is somewhat lengthy. It appears to be written by a *man*, an ex-aide surgeon of the French army, Dr. Souvielle. As parts of this looked familiar, we were going to accuse the *Sunbeam* of plagiarism, but noticing an account of a taffy pull, we concluded he was called in on account of some cases of consumption that resulted from it, and that his marvellous cures gained him the favor of the insertion.

THE *Monthly*, published by the ladies of the Hamilton (Ky.) Female College, opposes co-education. The November number, in one of its editorials, defends the study of the ancient languages. "The work of translation alone," says the writer, "causes the constant exercise of reasoning, comparison and taste. By these faculties being brought daily into play, accuracy of thought, elegance of diction, and a correctly educated taste, are effectually acquired." Again, "It seems strange that anyone who has had an opportunity to study, should be content to pass through life totally ignorant of the great writers of antiquity; to see Virgil and Sophocles mentioned continually by modern writers, and hear the Iliad and Odyssey daily spoken of, without being able to understand. No one can study and appreciate the works of the great ancient writers, without delighting in the study of his own literature, and appreciating its master-works. He whose mind is so cultivated as to derive pleasure only from the works of the best authors, has certainly attained one great object of education. Surely the majority are in favor of liberal education, and no education can be considered very extended which does not embrace some knowledge of the master-pieces of antiquity."

ALMOST simultaneously with the revival, if it may be so called, of the "Birds" at Cambridge, the Philothespian Club at Oxford began its legitimate existence by the production of Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice*. The Philothespians are to be recognized by the University so soon as they shall have satisfactorily produced a play of Shakespeare. The club is naturally anxious to attain as soon as possible to such an enviable position. But there was one more injunction laid upon them by the Vice-Chancellor—all female characters are to be played by ladies. The *Merchant of Venice* was put into rehearsal. Ladies whose names are not unknown in Oxford were found to kindly volunteer their services for Portia, Nerissa

and Jessica, and the leading parts find most fitting exponents among the members of the Club, assisted by Mr. Courtney, of New College, as Bassanio. Shylock is taken by the active president, Mr. Bouchier, of Christ Church. Mr. Mackinnon, Trinity, is Gratiano, and Mr. Gordon, of Merton, the persecuted and surely double-sided merchant. A special feature of the production is that the incidental music, which will be performed by an undergraduate orchestra, has been composed by an undergraduate musician, Mr. Monckton, of Oriel. Mr. Jowett, who sanctioned it, and Canon Scott Holland and Mr. Bouchier who were instrumental in obtaining that sanction, are to be congratulated on having turned the hitherto clandestine and not always well-directed efforts of the Philothespians into worthier channels.—*London Daily News*.

THE standard for admission at Princeton has been raised by the addition of a chapter in Hart's Rhetoric, four books of the Anabasis instead of three, the second book of Euclid, and Quadratics of Two Unknown Quantities, to the requirements for admission to the academic course. After the present year the tuition in the academic course will be \$100 instead of \$75 as heretofore. The course in psychology has been changed by the addition of physiological psychology, under Drs. Osborn and Scott, the former confining himself to the anatomy of the nervous system, and the latter to the functions of the brain and spinal cord. The historical course is to be greatly strengthened by Prof. Sloane. In the sophomore year one exercise a week will be taken up with the outlines of universal history, Freeman's "General Sketch of History" being used as a textbook, and lectures, narratives and discussions being introduced as occasion requires. In the junior year there will be two exercises a week, occupied with lectures and recitations on the "Transitional Epochs of History," with special reference to the science of politics, and the progress of civilization. For the seniors there will be one exercise a week, consisting of lectures and recitations on (1) "The Rise and Growth of European Colonies in North America, and the Causes of the War of Independence;" (2) "Comparative Politics from the Standpoint of American Institutions." It has been proposed at Princeton to make a course in the gymnasium compulsory.—*Ex*.

In the November number of *Acta Victoriana* there is a good article on the Pulpit. We quote one or two passages: "There was a time when the preacher came to the poor as a reformer, and held out to them a long hope. Their restless longing was on his side. Now he is mainly regarded as a part of the system of Church pomp. . . . Then there is the rapidly growing intellectual class, which we are told is coming to regard the preacher and his unverifiable assertions with quiet indifference and scorn. And can there be much doubt that for this antagonism the pulpit is mainly responsible? The preacher, as we have found him, readily entertains the notion that the whole scheme of things is laid out "to order" at the instance of his small understanding in the Word of God. He seems as if he came down on the vast range of subjects which he is tempted to handle as from a superior height. The place of theology in the sphere of men's knowledge tempts its doctors to believe that it confers the right of speaking with a certain voice of infallibility on all kinds of topics; and there has always been a sort of omniscient tone in the pulpit method of handling intellectual questions which stirs fierce rebellion in cultivated minds and hearts. . . . The pulpit has had a grand opportunity and has wasted it. In all ages there have been preachers who have borne on the torch in the van of progress, and like their Master, have paid by suffering for their power to lead mankind. Such lofty spirits have not been wanting to our own. But the pulpit on the whole has cast in its lot with the narrower view and the poorer realm."

AN in every respect excellent and successful performance of the *Electra* of Sophocles was given on the evenings of Thursday and Friday, and the afternoon of Saturday, by the students of Girton College, Cambridge. The acting and general appointments left little to be desired, the acting of the title role especially being quite a superior and finished performance. Admirably was the deep woe, the long weary despair of Electra

rendered by the actress, and equally excellent was her change to happiness when Orestes makes known to her that he is yet alive and stands before her. This scene was deeply touching, as was also that in which the grief-worn daughter of Agamemnon turns to the Paidagogos and thanks him for his tender care of the child she had committed to his charge. It was a happy inspiration on the part of the actress to sink down on her knees before the grey-bearded old man, the proud princess thus humbling herself before her faithful servant. Of the many picturesque groups in which the play abounded, this was perhaps the most beautiful. But indeed it is not so easy to say when Electra was best, so excellent was she throughout, and she even succeeded where amateurs usually fail, namely, in the parts where she had merely to be a silent performer. She filled the stage even when sunk in mute despair on the steps of her father's palace. She could never be overlooked, yet never thrust herself unduly forward. Haughty, supercilious, and overbearing to the life was Klutaimnestra, while Aigisthos could not, had he tried, have made himself look more like the villain that he was. Indeed, it is almost invidious to specialize, so excellent were the performers. A word of praise must, however, be accorded to the Chorus, whose singing and rhythmical talk were most effective. There being no music written to the *Electra*, the students very ably adapted that written by Mendelssohn for the *Antigone*.—*London Daily News*, Nov. 26.

At a recent meeting of the Senate of Toronto University, a communication was received from Mr. Justice Taylor of Manitoba, resigning his position on the senate. His successor will be chosen by the senate at next meeting. A letter from the board of Woodstock College was read, certifying that Rev. Mr. Wolverton had been chosen to represent that institution on the senate. Mr. Wolverton was present at the meeting, and took his seat. Letters were read from Dr. Nevitt, asking that the Toronto Women's Medical College be affiliated to the University; from Mr. R. E. Kingsford, asking the senate to appoint a committee on University finances, to meet with the executive committee on convocation; and from the clerk of convocation, transmitting a copy of the report of the committee of that body on the Starr medal question. This report was referred to the board of medical studies; a large committee was appointed to confer with the committee of convocation, and the application of the Medical College was held over for future consideration. In connection with a question from Mr. Seath, principal of the St. Catharines Collegiate Institute, the senate resolved that a junior matriculant taking French and German should be allowed to compete for honors in Latin, and should be credited also in proficiency competition with marks obtained in pass Greek, though under such circumstances it is an optional subject. The report of the Upper Canada College committee, dealing with the position of certain masters, was adopted. After considerable discussion, Prof. Loudon's resolution looking to the abolition of medals in the fourth year in arts was carried, and his proposal to substitute a system of three classes in honors was affirmed. It is proposed to make the minimum for the first class 75 per cent., for the second class 66, and for third class 50 per cent. of the maximum number of marks. This and former resolutions connected with it will be considered by the board of arts studies before any statute is introduced to give effect to them. On motion of Mr. Houston, seconded by Mr. Falconbridge, the following resolution was carried after a brief discussion:—"That it is expedient to create a department of political science in the curriculum of the University; to include in it the subjects of constitutional history, constitutional law, civil polity, political economy, and jurisprudence; and to separate civil polity in the third and fourth years from the department of mental and moral philosophy." After conferring the degree of B. A. on Mr. Cline, the senate adjourned to the call of the chair.—*Toronto World*.

WHILE Cambridge is discussing new Triposes, Oxford is giving as much of its mind as it can spare from theatricals to such congenial subjects as theological differences and the abolition of *viva voce*. It is difficult to imagine what Oxford would do if the theological party were suddenly to cease to

exist. Probably Oxford would cease to exist with it. In the good old times, before Mr. Goschen and Lord Coleridge abolished Tests, no term elapsed without its pulpit denunciations and its expenditure of Union eloquence upon the wickedness of schismatics and the need of keeping the University pure from all taint of Dissent. Tests were abolished, and unwilling Masters of Arts were no longer forced to subscribe to a number of theological propositions couched in the language of the sixteenth century. The grievance of the Dissenters was removed, and the point of dispute between the Theological and the Liberal parties was shifted. Since then there has been a gradual tendency on the part of the orthodox Dissenters to withdraw from the alliance of those who are not orthodox, and to incline towards the party of those who are. It is, therefore, with a sense of something like a return to a bygone age that we hear of an agitation among the Oxford Churchmen on the question whether a Nonconformist may be appointed to act as Examiner in Pass Divinity, or, as it is officially called, in the Rudiments of Faith and Religion. Vice-Chancellor Jowett, it appears, has appointed to that post a Nonconformist minister, who is also a distinguished Fellow of New College; and this appointment is now seriously exercising the minds of many devout people in the University. The examination is in the books of the Old Testament, with the Gospels and the Acts in Greek; and to these are added, except for those candidates who claim exemption on conscientious grounds, the Articles of the Church of England. Ought a Nonconformist to examine in these? That is the question now being discussed. As, however, Mr. Horton will have two colleagues, presumably Churchmen and probably clergymen, it will not be difficult for them to relieve him of the definitely Anglican part of the examination, if it is thought improper that he should deal with a subject which has frequently been intrusted to the hands of not too orthodox laymen. More important than this little theological dispute is the question, often mooted and now apparently becoming a practical proposal, about the abolition of the *viva voce* part of the examination. There is much to be said on both sides, but, for our own part, we must confess that we should see the change with regret. University teaching, in the higher branches, has now almost entirely lost its catechetical character, and is carried on by means of set lectures, note-books, and written essays. The system is excellent for creating good lecturers and good writers, but it is not at all adapted for making a man quick, ready, and able to call up his knowledge when it is asked for. *Viva voce* is a valuable corrective to the faults incidental to a system of lectures and essays. It enables an examiner to pierce through a rhetorical disguise. Often, too, it helps a weak man, or a man whose power of expression is not equal to his knowledge. It will require very strong arguments to convince us that the abolition of this part of the examination will be of service either to candidates or examiners.—*London Times*.

OXFORD, Dec. 13. Considerably more than 700 Masters of Arts mustered to-day from all parts of the country to record their votes in the matter of the nomination of Mr. Horton as an Examiner in the Rudiments of Religion. As is sometimes done on the occasion of large gatherings, the Convention was held in the Sheldonian Theatre, the area of which was occupied by the Masters of Arts, while the superior degrees found their place in the semi-circle on either side of the Vice-Chancellor, and the gallery was crowded with ladies and a sprinkling of undergraduates. The area itself was, as may be supposed, quite but not disagreeably full. Shortly after two o'clock the Vice-Chancellor (Professor Jowett), taking his place between the Proctors, announced in the usual formula in Latin the object of the Convocation. Then, with a change of tone, he began in English with the words "To avoid mistakes," but was interrupted by an universal peal of laughter, something in the words or the change of language appealing to the sense of humour of the Convocation. The Vice-Chancellor, however, upon silence being restored, severely rebuked the giddy triflers with the sarcasm "I am afraid, gentlemen, that if I had spoken in Latin many of you would have been unable to understand me." He

left it, indeed, an open question whether it had been his own powers of expression, or theirs of interpretation of which he had been in doubt. This interlude over, the Vice-Chancellor resumed his explanation. The ayes and noes were to give their votes filing out at opposite doors, at one of which was posted the junior, at the other the senior Proctor, each armed with a bodkin and a strip of paper, on which he pricked the vote. As soon as the affirmative votes were disposed of, the Vice-Chancellor diverted a portion of the negative voters through the same door—a step which greatly abridged the process of voting, and was a convenience to voters. There were some stragglers present, presumably residents, who did not vote. It was apparent from the first that the opposition to the nomination was in a large majority. When the last "non placet" had been recorded, and the Proctors had compared their lists, the senior Proctor announced the result with the formula, "majori parti non placet." The declaration of the numbers which followed—Placet 155, Non-Placet 576—was followed by a loud burst of cheering; some surprise being felt—not at the issue—for of that there could be no doubt, but at the largeness of the majority, being in the proportion of nearly four to one. So ended, as it was apparent from the first must end, this well meaning but most injudicious attempt to recognize the unsectarian character of the University. It is not impossible that the result may be to draw attention afresh to the examination itself, which, as all who have taken part in it confess, is of a most unsatisfactory character, and to lead either to an extensive modification of it, or, though this is, perhaps, less immediately probable, to its entire abolition. As it is, the most sacred topics have to be handled with a painful familiarity, and are, in consequence of the large amount of matter nominally required, necessarily dealt with in the most superficial and unprofitable manner. Regarded as a test of religious instruction, it cannot be said to be worth very much, except in so far as it secures a degree of acquaintance with portions of the Greek text of the New Testament.

THE attempt to break the will of Mrs. Jennie McGraw Fiske has been fairly inaugurated in Ithaca. The first effort is to show that at the time of her death—Sept. 30, 1881—Cornell University already had in its possession property worth \$3,000,000, and that under its charter it was incompetent to possess more. In this the interests of Professor Fiske, the husband of the testatrix, and of her own kin are identical. Emmons L. Williams, acting treasurer of the institution, swears that at the date mentioned, the property of the University, including buildings, grounds, experimental farm, libraries, apparatus and funds, was worth \$2,226,974.36, exclusive of 375,276.49 acres of Western land. He also deposes that about that time a sale of land was made at \$5.50 an acre. Some has since been sold at \$16.50 an acre. The next move is to learn the value of this land two years ago, and an open commission issues from the surrogate to make inquiries where the land lies in Wisconsin and neighboring States. A litigation probably prolonged has been begun. The University may plead that this estimate of the value of its buildings, grounds and apparatus, perhaps representing cost, does not represent value. It may and doubtless will plead that since the death of this last benefactor, and before the actual transfer of any of her property to it, it had become by act of the Legislature competent to hold property to any amount, and therefore to receive the legacy. Possibly an argument may be built upon the fact that Mrs. Fiske's gifts were not to the general funds of the College, but for particular objects, the care and maintenance of a building erected by her father for a hospital for sick students, and for the library. Questions, complicated indeed, will be presented to Surrogate Lyon. His judicial spirit will be tested. He is doubtless aware that the limiting clause of the University charter was a part of a compromise, made when the institution was first started, to quiet the clamor of envious persons. He likewise knows that all the funds have been and are now admirably managed, and that if allowed to receive what its friends have given it, the institution will become one of the most promising in the country. And happily for them, judges are not to right

wrongs or prevent them. They are to interpret and apply the laws.—*Utica Herald*.

ABOUT forty professors of modern languages from the principal institutions of learning in the country met in convention lately, at Columbia College, with a view to establishing an association for the purpose of promoting the study of modern languages in American Colleges. At the morning session Professor E. L. Walter, of the University of Michigan, presided. The subject discussed was "The Best Method of Teaching Modern Languages." Professor Brandt, of Hamilton College, thought that the method of teaching should vary with the aim of the student, as some wished to study German or French simply for the sake of reading works in those languages which would aid them in some specialty, while others studied them to learn to speak them in business, or for the sake of literary culture or philological research. The discussion was participated in by Professors Andrews, of Columbia College; Worman, of Vanderbilt University; Cooke, of Harvard College; Elliot, of Johns Hopkins University; and Rice, of Williams College. At the afternoon session President Carter, of Williams College, presided, and "The Most Efficient Means of Raising the Standard of Study of Modern Languages," was discussed. Professor Brandt, of Hamilton College, proposed that a journal in the interest of modern language study be established with several departments—one for English, another for French, a third for German, and a fourth, under one editor, for Italian and Spanish. The journal should be devoted to book reviews, original matter and pedagogics, and should not be of a popular nature. Professor March, of Lafayette, favoured the establishment of a journal of popular philology, which would be self-supporting, and would be of interest to a large and growing class of educated men in different walks of life. Professor Eliot, of Johns Hopkins University, thought many sections of the country sadly in need of trained teachers in modern languages. He knew of one place where a teacher had the title of "professor of French and dancing," and another where a course of study was called "lectures on French and preservation of the teeth." The speaker did not wish to have the modern languages substituted for Greek. Comparisons were odious, he thought Greek should be used for a thorough preparation for students, but when they came to College they should have the opportunity to take what they wished to. It was almost impossible to have a good superstructure of modern languages without a good foundation of the ancient languages. The professor thought that the modern languages should be placed on an equality with the classical languages. The inferior position which modern languages had occupied lowered the respect for them of teacher, students and the public generally. Professor Williams, of Brown University, said that modern languages would never reach the plane of equality with mathematics and the ancient languages until by efficient instruction they should be made as difficult and as solid as mathematics, Greek or Latin. Professor Calvin Thomas, of the University of Michigan, said that professors would do well to respect the abilities of their students, and to assume that they would familiarize themselves with any range of idea which was constantly presented to them. He consequently did not think, as some instructors did, that students were not benefited by the study of Greek plays, Lessing's "Laocoon" or Goethe's "Faust," because they could not understand these works completely. From the discipline which resulted to the memory, and especially from that broadening of the mental faculties called culture, the study of the classics was most beneficial, he thought, and to many men the reading of Homer in the original had been one of the most important events in their lives. A report of the Committee on Organization was adopted, by which a permanent association was formed with the name "The Modern Language Association of America." Any professor of modern languages in a college which confers the degree of B.A. may become a member of the association, and any teacher may join it who has been invited to do so by the Executive Committee. President Carter, of Williams, was elected president for the coming year.—*N. Y. Tribune*.

YOUR readers shall have a glimpse this week of English university life. We will go to Cambridge, as that place enjoys a degree of social pre-eminence over Oxford just now on account of having among its undergraduates Prince Albert Victor, the eldest son and heir of the Prince of Wales. Where there are 3,000 young bloods, most of them belonging to the aristocracy, and many having a great deal more money than sense, we are sure to find something to interest, if not to instruct us. The chief features of the town are its narrow streets and the seventeen colleges it contains. An English writer would descant rapturously upon the river that runs through it, but looking at this narrow stream with American eyes we cannot regard it as being anything but an ordinary creek. Its banks, however, are beautifully kept, and besides affording boating facilities to the students, it gives an air of picturesqueness, such as a wider stream could not, to the college grounds. One thing about Cambridge will shock you, and that is the names, derived, of course, from the colleges, given to some of the streets and public places. The regular habitues may see nothing wrong in such titles, but it seems awful to the visitor to walk through Jesus' Lane, to see the town children disporting on Christ's Pieces, and a match played by "children of a larger growth" on Corpus Christi football grounds! You will soon know by the street scenes that you are in a great centre of high-class education. In the forenoon about every other man you meet will have on a black gown and a mortar-board hat, and in the afternoon you will see an equal number who have exchanged this toggery for some fantastic sporting suit, and are now hastening to their favourite rendezvous for a few hours of play. At certain times of the day you will be reminded of your whereabouts by even the vehicles in the streets, for most of these will contain dishes and ample cans, and will be pushing about through the town with the meals of the students who have private apartments. Only a limited number can room in the colleges, and these get in by priority of application. The rest must lodge elsewhere. But the dons, it appears, exercise control over the stomachs of the young men, as well as their minds. In other words, the townspeople may "sleep" these young hopefuls, but they are not allowed to "eat" them, as the old woman expressed it, for their hash and other delicacies are sent regularly from the colleges. It takes three years to get a degree at Cambridge, and the examinations both for admission and graduation are very stiff. Up to a few years ago none were received either here or at Oxford except adherents of the Church of England. The colleges are still under the control of that church, but Dissenters now have equal privileges, for they are excused, if they desire, from the chapel services, to which the others must go three or four times a week and twice on Sunday. In their enjoyment of this privilege the Dissenting boys are greatly envied by their chums of the orthodox faith, and I should not be surprised to hear of converts being made, for one of their number assured me that chapel duties are in general disfavor among the students, and are shirked whenever possible. There are three terms during the year, covering about eight months. They have a month for kicking up their heels at Christmas, and a long vacation of about three months in the summer. These periods of rest and refreshment, I need hardly say, are very popular. With the exception of the few deserving young men who have to stay here to earn the money necessary for the next term, the students all "go down" at vacation times, and the old town looks like a deserted village. The lectures cost about two guineas a course, the total expenditure in this direction depending upon the number of subjects the student goes in for. Board amounts to from fifteen to twenty guineas a term, a guinea being equivalent to a five dollar bill. Those who have rooms outside pay from ten to fifteen guineas a term for them. I am told that one who is economical and virtuous can get all the advantages of this magnificent University, with a large amount of innocent sport thrown in, for about forty guineas a term, which would aggregate only \$600 a year. But you may be sure that only a very few get off with anything like so low a figure as that. The legitimate expenses are only a fraction of what the majority spend: I hear of as much as \$2500 being dropped by some of them over a single game of

cards, for card playing is allowed even in the rooms of those who live at the Colleges, and of course it is impossible, under those circumstances, to prevent gambling. I hear, too, of enormous bills run up by some for wine, clothing and carriage hire. The trades-people of the town are forbidden to trust the students, and those who lend them money are objects of special malediction on the part of the College authorities. But many do both, and there are numbers of men in Cambridge who have grown rich on the interest derived from the loans of the needful. A hundred percent is a common rate for these local Shylocks to charge for such accommodations, and very needy applicants, with great expectations and little brains, have often been fleeced to the tune of two and three hundred percent. The fines paid for infraction of University rules make up a considerable proportion of the expense bills of many of the students. Every such breach that is detected depletes the pocket-book to the extent of from \$2 to \$4, and it is a proverbial saying here that some of the young fellows get receipts enough from the Proctor in the course of the year for money paid out in this way to paper their rooms with. The Proctor, by the way, is the nightmare of University life. But for him the students would have the nicest time in the world. They do not object to reading and attending lectures; it is when the dons, as represented in the august personage in question, throw restrictions about their private lives and place their conduct on the streets under surveillance that the shoe pinches. This awful individual parades the thoroughfares at the most inopportune hours, accompanied by his "bull-dogs"—a couple of men who act as his detective and police officers—and when a young man is caught napping he is at once halted and mulcted in a fine, and should he take to his heels the "dogs" would follow at full tilt and bring him back. Such occurrences as this happen quite frequently. If the young men would only consent to have their moral and social conduct made to order according to the pattern marked out by their superiors they would be just too proper and good for anything. You would never, in that case, see them out after dark without their caps and gowns, and 10 P.M. would always find them tucked in bed, or at least in the safe inclosure of their own apartments. They would not smoke on the streets, nor frequent taverns, nor consort with females of questionable character. But many, unfortunately, honor these rules more in the breach than in the observance, and some systematically break them all with the utmost impunity. If a student is out after ten the lodging house keeper must report the fact; otherwise, if the omission be discovered the house will be tabooed. But those who imagine that this rule is not often broken, and that when it is the authorities are always duly notified, must form a poor estimate both of the ingenuity of the young man and of the susceptibility to bribes of the ordinary landlady. As to smoking, there are only a few who do not indulge whenever the fancy takes them, and, of course, the number of fines are wholly out of proportion to the number of offences in this line. The regulations forbid students from being seen on the streets with females of any description—young, or old, good, bad or indifferent. Of course, if a fellow's cousins or aunts come up to see him, he can get a special license for a sidewalk promenade; but he must be sure that the Proctor and his bull dogs know the circumstances, or, just when their tête-à-tête reaches its sweetest heights, they may all be pounced upon and made the subjects of a humiliating street scene. Some painful mistakes of this kind have been made, leading to bad blood, not to say bloody noses. The penalty of being found in the company of abandoned females is dismissal from the University, and the females are sent for a term of imprisonment to a local reformatory known for some inexplicable reason as the "Spinning House." But few are dismissed, and it is not often that lost feminine virtue airs its woes within the confines of this University bastille. Human nature may be very bad, but it is likewise very ingenious, and the boys here furnish a fine illustration in this, as in other matters, of the sage saying that "where there's a will there's a way." Those who get introduced into the best female society of Cambridge are objects of peculiar envy to the less fortunate, and they escape many perils. It

can be truthfully said, however, that the moral atmosphere surrounding this English University is far superior to that which envelops similar institutions on the Continent, and despite its blemishes and social snags the life of the student flows on almost as smoothly as the peaceful river that winds through the place, its current set, doubtless, in the main, toward purity and sound learning. The University, of course, gives character to the town. In many of the affairs of the municipality, the Vice-Chancellor has co-ordinate authority with the Mayor. Notably is this the case in regard to the amusements permitted. Not many years ago the town had no theatre, and only the very best of plays are allowed under the more liberal regime which now tolerates such places. Once a year Greek plays are rendered by the students in the original language. At the present time, "The Birds of Aristophanes" are on the boards. The extent to which these three thousand representatives of the flower and strength of English youth devote themselves to the characteristic sports and pastimes of their native land can be easily imagined. Boating has the largest number of votaries, at least one-half of the young men pursuing this exercise with the regularity and assiduity with which a monk says his prayers. One of the results of this passion for rowing is witnessed in the magnificent contest which takes place annually on the Thames, an object of interest and delight to the whole world. Other and more beneficial results are seen in the fine physical development and remarkable powers of endurance acquired by the devotees. Cricket, foot-ball, hockey, racquets and lawn-tennis all have their followers, and the University annually turns out those who are as expert in these various games as in wrangling within the arena of mathematics. To an outside observer there appears to be more sport than study here. But the authorities are evidently of opinion that all work and no play would make Jack a dull boy; and some of the students, taking advantage of the latitude allowed, seem bent on showing that all play and no work will just as certainly make him an idle Turk. But I must not forget the Prince. There are several of this rank at the University who come from India and have the dark skins peculiar to that clime. But your readers will only care to hear about that fair-skinned and light-haired youth of nineteen summers, who, if he lives long enough, and his father dies soon enough, will one day sit upon the throne of England. His features are those of the Prince of Wales in embryo, but he will be taller. If he possess also the engaging, gentlemanly manners that now so happily distinguish his father, and can manage to get through early manhood without sowing quite so many wild oats, we may confidently predict for him a career of great usefulness and unbounded popularity. At present he makes the impression of a modest, well bred boy, fond of his books, and with just enough regard for out-door sports to save him from effeminacy. Racquets and hockey are his favorite pastimes, though he occasionally takes a spurt on the river. He has no carriage, but keeps several horses, and, with his young friend Lieut. Henderson, often goes out riding. He is not much lionized by his fellow-students, for many of those are not much inferior to him in rank, and, besides, an English University is a little Republic in which all are equal. But oh, how the Cambridge girls dote on this scion of royalty! There is no danger, however, of any of them capturing him, for the wives of the dons have taken him in charge, and no single woman who might aspire to set her cap for him is allowed to come near. And now, wishing the young Prince and all the other young fellows long life and much happiness, we bring this brief sketch of English University life to a close.—*Correspondence of the Louisville Courier-Journal.*

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following exchanges:—*The Argosy, Presbyterian College Journal, The Thielensian, Rouge et Noir, Queen's College Journal, Hamilton (Ky.) College Monthly, The Varsity, King's College Record, The Educational Record, The Dalhousie Gazette, The V. P. Journal, Richmond Literary Miscellany, Astrum Alberti, Normal News, Harvard Advocate, and The St. Mary's Sentinel.*

Between the Lectures.

OUR WASTE-PAPER BASKET.

The following morceau we extract from the advance sheets of a volume of "Dejected Verses" by the author of "He would be a Poet":

THE SPARROWS.

"Ye dusty little scavengers,
One always may be sure
To find you lightly perching on
A newly made manure.

No thought have ye of fly or snail,
Or lively hopper grass,
Or worm or slug or little bug;
On these ye always 'pass.'
* * * * *

We have been taught by Doctor Watt,
A great authority,
That t'other side the ocean wide
Birds in their nests agree;

But going down our way to town,
We see another sight;
Ye in your little nests fall out,
And scratch and bark and bite.

Why should this be? from what we see,
This inference must be drawn;
That now ye are and ever were
In Canada a fraud."

A SEDATIVE.—"Doctor, I want you to look at my tongue," said a loquacious belle to her physician. "What do you think is the matter with it?" "It wants rest," was the reply.

JUDGE RITCHIE has sixteen beautiful and accomplished daughters, only one of whom is married. This is what the French would call an embarrassment of Ritchies.

BROWN says he hates inquisitive people and, he thinks, that the worst kind of inquisitiveness is that exhibited by the man who stops him in the street and wants to know when he is going to pay him that little bill.

NOTHING makes a woman so mad as, on going to a shoe shop to buy a pair of cheap slippers for her husband, to have a shopman try to sell her the identical pair she has just worked for a present for her minister.

A SCHOOLBOY being asked by his teacher how he should flog him, replied: "if you please, sir, I should like to have it on the Italian system of penmanship—the heavy strokes upward and the downward ones light."

SCOTTISH ECONOMY.—One bonnet had served Maggie a dozen years, and some ladies in offering to present her with a new one, asked whether she would prefer a silk or a straw one. "Weel," said Maggie, "I think I'll tak' a strae one, it will maybe be a mouthfu' to the coo when I'm through wi' it."—*Portfolio*.

SECRETS OF THE CONFESSIONAL.—"Is it a sin," asks a fashionable lady of her spiritual director, "for me to feel pleasure when a gentleman says I am handsome?" "It is, my daughter," he replies gravely, "we should never delight in falsehood!"—*Astrum Alberti*.

SCENE AT THE SALVATION ARMY.—Evangelist endeavouring to persuade Junior to come up to the altar:—Junior:—"Are you a sinner?" Evangelist:—"I am glad that I can stand up here to-night and confess that I am a sinner." Junior:—"Well, my Bible says, 'My son, when sinners entice thee, consent thou not.'"—*Ex*.

WE have it on the best authority that a crisis in the dry goods trade is imminent. Owing to the rapidity with which the knickerbocker movement has spread, the market has become glutted, the demand for cloth being reduced by fully one-half. On the other hand, the demand for hosiery of all kinds is on the increase, and it is feared that an unhealthy inflation will be the result in this department of trade.

A FRESHMAN, pompous and dignified as all freshmen are when outside of College, entered a down-town bookstore the other day, and in a haughty tone demanded "a copy of Xenophon's Anabasis, and please be quick about it." The name of the book was unfamiliar to the shopwoman who received this order, so she cast a rapid glance at the freshy in order to determine the style of literature he was likely to affect, and then asked—"Is it in the Seaside Library, sir?"

"THE idea of putting John on a jury!" exclaimed Mrs. Tomkins, when she heard that her husband had been drawn. "They might as well order a new trial right off. They won't get John to agree on a verdict. He is the most obstinate man I ever saw. I never knew him to agree with his own wife in anything, and it isn't at all likely he's going to agree with people he don't know anything about. A pretty juryman he is!"

A SAD misfortune lately befell a well-known Q. C. It is related of him that, as he was riding in a first-class railway carriage, from a single glance at the countenance of a lady at his side he imagined that he knew her, and ventured the remark that the day was pleasant. She only answered, "Yes." "Why do you wear a veil?" Lest I attract gentlemen." "It is the province of gentlemen to admire," replied the gallant man of law. "Not when they are married," said the lady. "But I am not." "Indeed!" "Oh, no! I am a bachelor." The lady quietly removed her veil, disclosing to the astonished counsel the face of his mother-in-law!

GENERAL SHERMAN recently had some shirts made at a furnishing store in Washington, and the cutter a few weeks later, met the General with a friend walking down the avenue. The General remembered the face, but could not locate him, and the cutter greeted him with, "Good morning, General. How are you to-day!" The General stopped, shook hands, and the cutter perceiving that the General's mind needed refreshing, said quietly, "Made your shirts." "Oh, I beg pardon," said the General quickly, and, turning to the gentleman with whom he was walking, he said, "Colonel —, allow me to introduce you to my friend, Major Schurz!"

Personals.

J. O. Stewart, Class '80, Medicine, has lately returned from the West to visit his relatives. He expressed much surprise at the changed aspect of the surroundings of "Old McGill," caused by the new buildings which have been erected since he graduated, and hoped that the Meds and Methodists would fraternize well.

We regret to have to announce that Mr. J. A. Porter, '86, Med., will not return to Collegethis year. Mr. Porter's numerous friends will be sorry to hear that sickness in his family has been the cause of his rather sudden departure. We all hope, however, to see him with us again after next Christmas, when, we believe, he will resume his College course. Mr. Porter was on the Editorial Staff of the *Gazette*, where his eminent ability and conscientious work were much appreciated.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Merrill.—Iron Truss Bridges for Railways; Perry.—Practical Mechanics; Trigonometrical Survey of India.—Vols. VII. and VIII.; Royal Dublin Society Scientific Proceedings; Smithsonian Institute, Report for 1881; British Association Advancement of Science, Reports 1881 and 1882; Malmesbury.—Diaries and Correspondence of — 4 vols.; Encyclopedia Britannica—vol. XVI.; Urquhart.—Electric Light; Montreal City Reports for 1883; U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Reports for 1881; Acland, (Dr.).—Groundwork of Culture; Flinders Petrie.—The Pyramids of Gizeh; Royal Astronomical Society's Proceedings for 1883; Report of the Commission for the Revision, Etc., Statutes Province of Quebec.

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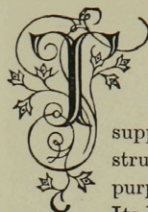
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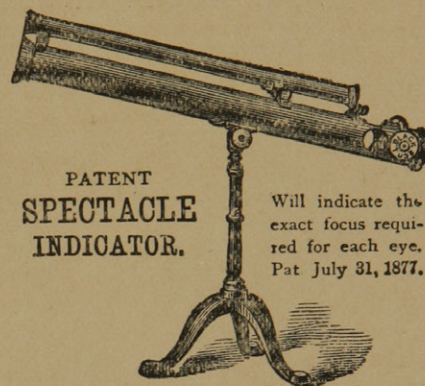
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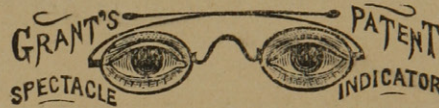
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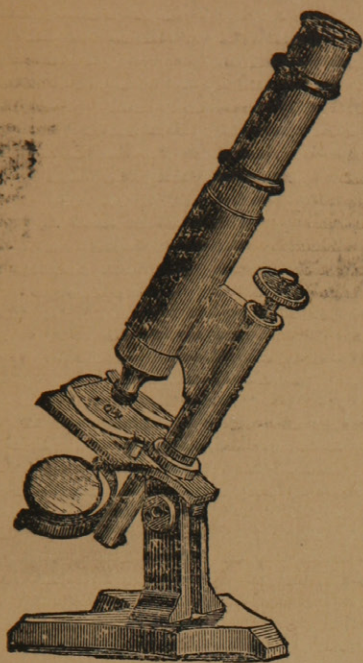
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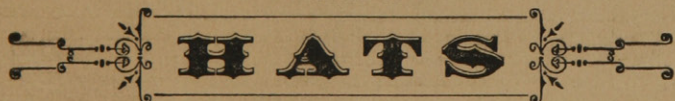
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